

# 36<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy

Naples, October 04-07, 2016

## Second Announcement

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Congress of the Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy (SISFA, Società Italiana degli Storici della Fisica e dell'Astronomia) will take place in Naples on October 04-07, 2016 (see [www.sisfa.org](http://www.sisfa.org)). The main venue of the Congress will be the Department of Physics "Ettore Pancini" at the University of Naples "Federico II", Complesso Universitario di Monte S. Angelo.

### *General Information and Programme*

**Organizer:** SISFA (Società Italiana degli Storici della Fisica e dell'Astronomia).

**Local partners and organizing cooperation:** 1) INFN – Sezione di Napoli, 2) Dipartimento di Fisica "Ettore Pancini", Università di Napoli "Federico II", 3) Scuola Militare Nunziatella, 4) Polo Archivistico Sanitario – Ex-Ospedale Psichiatrico "Leonardo Bianchi", 5) Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte.

**SISFA Advisory Committee:** Fabrizio Bonoli (Università di Bologna), Paolo Brenni (CNR - Firenze, FST - Firenze), Danilo Capecchi (Università di Roma Sapienza), Salvatore Esposito (INFN - Sezione di Napoli), Lucio Fregonese (Università di Pavia), Roberto Mantovani (Università di Urbino), Angelo Pagano (INFN - Sezione di Catania), Pasquale Tucci (Università degli Studi di Milano, fr).

**Local Organizing Committee:** Salvatore Esposito (INFN - Sezione di Napoli), Mauro Gargano (INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte), Adele La Rana (TERA Foundation, Novara), Gianpiero Mangano (INFN - Sezione di Napoli), Roberto Mantovani (Università di Urbino), Gennaro Miele (Università di Napoli "Federico II"), Ofelia Pisanti (Università di Napoli "Federico II").

**Congress official web page:** <http://www.sisfa.org/convegni/xxxvi-congress-of-the-italian-society-of-historians-of-physics-and-astronomy-2016/>

**Congress official email address:** [convegno2016@sisfa.org](mailto:convegno2016@sisfa.org)

**The Congress:** Continuing the series of SISFA annual meetings, the Congress aims at promoting the study of the history of physics and astronomy in Italy. At the same time, it provides an opportunity to strengthen old and establish new links among the members of SISFA, the members of other scholarly

societies and researchers working in the same and in related fields. Historians of physics and astronomy are therefore invited to participate and the invitation is extended to all interested scholars. The Congress will host both invited talks and oral communications. The official languages will be both Italian and English. More detailed information and updating will appear on the Congress official web page.

**Topics:** Proposals for oral communications should mainly address the history of physics and astronomy, also in connection with the related areas of mathematics, chemistry and the history of science and culture. Studies focusing on historical instruments and documentary sources regarding the mentioned fields are also relevant, as well as the applications of the history of physics and astronomy in science education and museum displays.

**Topical sessions:** A session will be devoted to the centennial of Einstein's theoretical prediction of gravitational waves and to the recent experimental discovery of them. Other special sessions: "Giuseppe Saverio Poli (1746-1825) and the development of Science in Southern Italy between the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries"; "Historical Collections of Scientific Instruments in Naples and Southern Italy".

The topical session on Giuseppe Saverio Poli will be held at the Scuola Militare Nunziatella, of which Poli was the first commander since the last years of the 18th century. The session aims to analyze the multifaceted scientific activities of one of the most influential scientists in Southern Italy, whose interest across a large variety of topics: medical electricity, meteorology, earthquakes, military and natural history. Though working mainly in Naples, where he taught experimental physics, his scientific studies won an international reputation as well as membership in the principal Academies of Italy and Europe, including the Royal Society of London. Also, one of the most influential physics textbooks in Italy, Poli's *Elementi di Fisica Sperimentale*, served as the basic text for major Italian universities for more than twenty years and underwent through 23 editions, from 1781 to 1837. Poli also wrote an elaborate poetic work on astronomy, and became a passionate collector of natural objects and man-made artefacts, which formed the nucleus of his personal famous museum. In the field of natural sciences, a more than a decade-long research on Mediterranean mollusks and crustaceans. led to the publication of another well-known work, *Testacea utriusque Siciliae eorumque anatome tabulis aeneis*, in two volumes (Parma, 1790-1795). However, it remained unfinished at his death, and the latter parts came out posthumously, edited and supplemented by his pupil Stephano delle Chiaje (1794–1860).

**Outline of the Congress:** The Congress will host invited talks and communications. Various initiatives will also give participants the opportunity to get acquainted with the scientific and historical heritage of Napoli. More specific details on the initiatives will be soon provided on the Congress web page.

**Video shooting:** Invited talks will be broadcast live streaming; videos of any talk will be put on a dedicated channel of YouTube (unless an explicit refusal of the contributor).

**Travel information and accommodation:** See "Useful information" on the Congress web page: <http://www.sisfa.org/convegni/xxxvi-congress-of-the-italian-society-of-historians-of-physics-and-astronomy-2016/>

**Registration, abstract submission and conference fee:** registration and payment of the conference fee are mandatory for all congress participants, both presenting oral communications or attending only (see deadlines below).

Abstracts of oral communications should be submitted preferably in English.

Please see below for more details regarding registration, abstract submission and conference fees.

**a) Registration** (deadline June 30, 2016): please fill in the blanks as appropriate in the “Congress registration” area on the Congress web page: <http://www.sisfa.org/convegni/xxxvi-convegno-sisfa/>

**b) Presentation of oral communications** should comply with the procedures indicated in <http://www.sisfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Norme-editoriali-per-comunicazioni-e-Atti-dei-Congressi-SISFA.pdf>. In particular, at least one of the Authors presenting a communication is required to be a current member of SISFA (for new associations see procedures at: <http://www.sisfa.org/iscrizione-e-contatti/>).

**c) Abstract format:** Abstracts must provide 1) Title of the contribution, 2) Name(s) of the contributor(s), 3) a brief Summary with essential bibliography of the proposed contribution (MAX. 2000 characters, including bibliography and spaces).

The abstract should be produced as a digital file (Word 97-2003 or upper versions), named after the surname(s) of the contributor(s).

**d) Abstract submission** (deadline June 30, 2016): the Word file containing the abstract and bibliography should be uploaded using the upload button in the area “Abstract submission” on the Congress web page.

**e) Payment of conference fee** (deadline September 30, 2016) applying to the specific situation (see below).

**Amount of conference fees:** different conference fees apply to 1) SISFA and 2) non SISFA members. Reductions do also apply (see below) for special categories of participants:

1) For SISFA members the conference fees are € 100 (full) or € 50 (reduced), to be paid by bank transfer (see below) writing 2016+SURNAME in the comments field (“causale”) space to allow us proper administrative handling;

1.1) SISFA members should also ensure that their 2016 membership fee has been paid. If not already done, you can add your proper membership fee to the conference fee: + € 50 (full) or + € 35 (reduced) depending on your condition (see under “Iscrizione e Contatti” on our website) and pay with the same bank transfer.

2) For non SISFA members the conference fees are € 150 (full) or € 75 (reduced), to be paid by bank transfer (see below) writing 2016+SURNAME in the comments field (“causale”) space to allow us proper administrative handling.

If you are submitting an oral communication, please check if you should also start the SISFA association procedure, according to the indications given above at point **b) Presentation of oral communications**.

**Fee reductions:** the indicated conference fee reductions apply in general to the following categories only: 1) Undergraduate students; 2) MPhil or PhD students, current or obtained 2012-2016; 3) Secondary school teachers, current.

**Payment system:** The proper total fee should be paid by bank transfer using the IBAN code and bank details below. Please, remember to write 2016+SURNAME in the comments field (“causale”):

SISFA (Società Italiana degli Storici della Fisica e della Astronomia)  
Via Corti, 5  
27100 – Pavia

IBAN IT78 K033 5901 6001 0000 0119 180  
BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMXXXX  
Banca Prossima S.P.A. - Filiale Di Milano - Piazza Paolo Ferrari 10

The Conference fee includes: conference kit, conference booklet, coffee breaks. The Conference proceedings will be published online.

We look forward to meeting you in Napoli.  
*The organizing committees*